

January 27, 1948.

Mr. Joshua Lederberg
Yale University
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Sir:

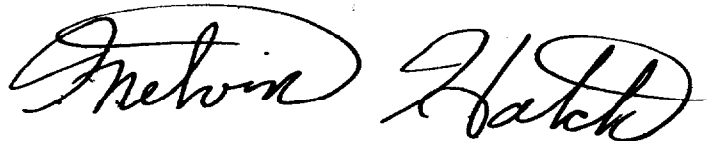
Your experiment regarding the ability of Escherichia coli to resort to sex as a means of reproduction is extremely interesting. My understanding is that you placed together two groups of E. coli (one group being able to produce vitamins and the other group being able to produce amino acids) in a specially prepared media and that the end result was a new colony of E. coli which possessed the ability to produce vitamins and amino acids as well. Is this newly developed characteristic permanent or temporary in successive strains? Have you tried the same technique on other species of bacteria?

A knowledge of your work may explain some of the results I have observed in my research work with various strains of Azotobacter. Possibly, with your permission, I might apply your procedures in obtaining desired results from my Azotobacter strains. My research problem is to study the morphology and general characteristics of various strains of Azotobacter and to study their ability to produce antibiotic substances which are effective against certain fungi.

Would it be possible for you to send me complete detail concerning your experiments, techniques used and exact results obtained?

Respectfully yours,

Melvin Hatch
545 North 6 West
Provo, Utah

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melvin Hatch". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.